

The House Committee on Human Relations and Aging offers the following substitute to HR 567:

A RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution, in a manner consistent with the United States
2 Constitution, so as to prevent discrimination in the public funding of social services by
3 allowing religious or faith based organizations to receive public aid, directly or indirectly,
4 for the provision of such services; to provide for the submission of this amendment for
5 ratification or rejection; and for other purposes.

6 WHEREAS, freedom of worship is very important to the citizens of Georgia; and

7 WHEREAS, the public policy of the State of Georgia is to prevent discrimination and
8 advance principles of nondiscrimination; and

9 WHEREAS, Georgia's Blaine Amendment, Article I, Section II, Paragraph VII of the
10 Constitution of Georgia, was inspired by anti-Catholic bigotry and a desire to stifle the
11 growth of the Catholic community in this state; and

12 WHEREAS, Georgia's Blaine Amendment has, in the past, been used to bar state aid on the
13 basis of the intended recipient's religious identity rather than the recipient's words and
14 actions; and

15 WHEREAS, Georgia's Blaine Amendment currently stands as a legal and practical obstacle
16 for religious believers of all stripes to obtain state funds on an equal basis with other citizens
17 consistent with the United States Constitution; and

18 WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend the Constitution to ensure that Georgia's religious
19 community will not again be discriminated against as a result of religious identity.

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
21 GEORGIA:

